



Praise for *Forged by Reading*

“This book will open the door to an understanding of literacy like no other. But it’s not a how-to-use-literature-to-empower-our-kids book. It’s a why-haven’t-we book. It’s a we-must book. *Forged by Reading* is filled with hard truths and the inspiration needed to walk toward a new world—one where relevant reading rules. So, put your walking shoes on, get ready for the hard, necessary work, and let Kylene and Bob show us the way.”

—**Kwame Alexander, Poet, Educator, and *New York Times* Best-selling Author of *Light for the World to See: A Thousand Words on Race and Hope***

“If you haven’t read a single Beers & Probst educational bible to date, read *Forged by Reading*. It’s all right here...at the time of American education’s greatest need. There may well be no creative power greater than that of language...reading language, writing language, understanding language, embracing language. With *Forged by Reading*, Kylene and Bob hand us a road map to unleashing that power. Read it. Revel in it. Use it.”

—**Chris Crutcher, Best-selling Author and Recipient of the American Library Association Margaret A. Edwards Award for Lifetime Achievement and the NCTE Intellectual Freedom Award**

“Kylene and Bob offer us ‘the missing link’ in literacy education we didn’t realize we were missing. *Forged by Reading* is written for this exact moment in our country’s history. But it’s also about our country’s past and future. *Forged by Reading* is scholarship that shows us not only how our literacies link us to each other, but also how reading links to our uniquely human souls.”

—**Jennifer Ochoa, Middle School Teacher, NYC Public Schools, and 2020 Adjunct Professor of the Year, Lehman College**

“Beers and Probst, who explore the moral imperative of liberatory pedagogy, remind us that those who read and discuss books hone literate minds—the key to transforming their own lives, as well as our greatest hope for transforming our democracy—bending its arc toward equity and justice for all.”

—**Ernest Morrell, Coyle Professor of Literacy Education, University of Notre Dame**

“This timely book is a call to action for educators to embrace the languages, cultures, and identities of our students, disrupt the oppressive reading and writing practices in classrooms across this nation—and replace them with humane, equitable instruction for all.”

—**Yalitza Vasquez, VP of Multilingual Education, Trinity Education Group, and Former Senior Executive Director Division of English Language Learners and Student Support, NYC Department of Education**

“Kylene and Bob are the oracles of our profession. They offer us a prophecy that I, for one, hope we heed—literacy is an essential element of freedom and the ways in which it is withheld contribute to oppression. This book will shift how you regard your teaching: abolish harmful pedagogies, confirm just practices, and travel with your colleagues on an epic journey of literacy justice.”

—**Kate Roberts, Author, Consultant, and Guest Teacher**

“Consider the intimate connection between education and our democratic ideals. *Forged by Reading* is a powerful and timely reminder that when we are equipped with insight and the truth of who we are, we can be what’s right, we can forge that connection.

—**Cornelius Minor, Educator and Author of *We Got This: Equity, Access, and the Quest to Be Who Our Students Need Us to Be***

“This is a disruptive, unrelenting, and necessary book that demands we remake what it means to teach readers. It will unmoor what you felt was certain, and challenge you to re-see and, ultimately, to step into work that is both dangerous and essential.”

—**Sara Kajder, Clinical Associate Professor of English Education, University of Georgia**

“Kylene and Bob explain why literacy is power and why testing and standards interfere with education’s bigger goals. They ask us to be brave and to anchor our work in this vision of literacy so we can achieve the ultimate aim: students who embrace the power of reading.”

—**Franki Sibberson, 2020 NCTE Past President, Teacher, Librarian, Author**

“*Forged by Reading* comes to us just as our country is in the process of finding its way to racial equity. This indispensable book supports that journey.”

—**Shawn Bird, Chief of Schools, Portland Public Schools**

“Kylene and Bob challenge us to empower our students to tackle text, create meaning, speak to something inside, and awaken the imagination. This is the hopeful, transformative work of *Forged by Reading*.”

—**Tonya B. Perry, Professor, Executive Director of GEAR UP Alabama and Red Mountain Writing Project, School of Education, The University of Alabama at Birmingham**

“Literacy is power—the power to open minds and imagine how to create a more just and equitable world. Kylene and Bob ask us to do the necessary and important work of educating children in ways that matter.”

—**Michele Myers, Clinical Associate Professor, University of South Carolina**

“Kylene and Bob explore the power of language to spark change. We must be willing to embrace the discomfort that comes with changes in thinking and practice. *Forged by Reading* shows us how.”

—**Brent Gilson, Teacher, Magrath High School, Magrath, Alberta, Canada**

“Drawing on recent events and the call to action against systemic racism, *Forged by Reading* demonstrates the power of literature to help students think critically and to stretch their attitudes and beliefs.”

—**Susan Mirsky, Coordinator of Literacy, Kenosha Unified School District, WI**

“Our world cries out for informed and engaged citizens who radically imagine and bring into being communities that yield equity for all. Reading can embolden all of us to make this transformation. Kylene and Bob show us the way in this thoughtful, thorough, timely text.”

—**Aeriale Johnson, Third-grade teacher, Writer, Speaker, and National Board Certified Teacher, San Jose, CA**

“As a principal, I regularly provided books to my teachers by Beers and Probst. This book is no exception. I was thoroughly moved by the stories, theory, and passion that rose from every page—another profound Beers and Probst literacy work that will impact every classroom!”

—**Jacqueline Sanderlin, Educator, Speaker, Author of *The “Why Not?” Challenge: Say ‘Yes’ to Success with School-Community Partnerships***

“In *Forged by Reading*, Beers and Probst urge us to teach beyond reading strategies and skills—helping us to understand the importance of teaching reading from a critical perspective.”

—**Kamania Wynter-Hoyte, Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education, University of South Carolina**